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E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/24/2018
TAGS: [PHUM](#) [PREL](#) [EUN](#) [PO](#)
SUBJECT: PORTUGAL PUSHES FOR BALANCED HRC RESOLUTION ON GAZA

REF: STATE 7232

Classified By: Dana M. Brown, Pol-Econ Officer, Embassy Lisbon
Reason 1.4 (b)

[¶1.](#) (C) Pol-Econ Counselor and Poloff jointly delivered reftel demarche points to MFA officials in both the Middle East and the UN/Human Rights Offices urging a common position against the proposed Human Rights Council (HRC) special resolution on Gaza as presented in reftel. UN Affairs Officer Goncalo Silvestre replied that Portugal shares U.S. concerns regarding the draft resolution's language and were pressing their position in discussions with partner countries in Geneva.

[¶2.](#) (C) According to Silvestre, Portugal wanted three changes made to the resolution text before it would support a common European position vote in favor, specifically the inclusion of: (1) references to the rocket attacks against Israel since the New Year; (2) language expressing concern over military action taken by both sides, rather than solely condemning Israeli operations; and (3) language expressing support for the peace process generally and the Roadmap specifically. Silvestre noted that the discussions were among Western European nations, not necessarily the EU as a whole. He offered to share further information about discussions on January 24 as it became available.

[¶3.](#) (C) Comment: The focus of internal EU discussions in Geneva appears to be on improving the resolution rather than on rejecting it outright. Although Portugal is not a member of the Human Rights Council, its diplomats in Geneva are actively involved in that effort. End comment.
Stephenson